January 2009 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders from Bullitt County Schools

Below is a complete written summary and digital copy (audio and video) of the January webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders. Each month we go to a different district. On January 20th, the webcast was conducted from Eastside Middle School.   We had over 160 locations that watched or listened to our webcast live on the 20th!

Below is a complete written summary and link to the digital copy (audio and video) of the January webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders.

You can get to both the Video and Audio links for this webcast through our webpage at:
http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Technology/Webcasts/Webcast+for+District+Technology+Leaders.htm

The broadcast was approximately 1 hour and 13 minutes.   The numbers in **red** below indicate the time stamp for discussion on the audio and video segment of the broadcast.

Summary

03:14 Introductions and Bullitt County schools information:

Bullitt is one of the fastest growing counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The population was 61,236 as of the 2000 census. Population estimates of 2007 put the population at 73,931. Shepherdsville is the county seat.[1]   Bullitt County is named after Alexander Scott Bullitt, one of the architects of Kentucky government, and was created on January 1, 1797. The Wikipedia site for the above information is located at: **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullitt_County,_Kentucky.**   The official website for the school district is: http://www.bullittschools.org/web2.0/

David Couch introduced those participating from **KDE** - they include: Phil Coleman, Mike Leadingham, Charlotte Chowning as well as others from KDE in the audience.

From **Bullitt County** we had the **CIO Jim Jackson**, who introduced **State Representative Linda Belcher**, **Dave Marshall** - who is a former principal of Bullitt East High School, **Superintendent Keith Davis**, and **Mark Neblett - father of Rachel Neblett** who took her own life after being cyber bullied on-line joining us today to discuss " Make a Difference for Kids" http://www.makeadifferenceforkids.org/Mark.html an organization he leads.

We also have district computer technicians: Jim Jackson, Andy Hobbs, Troy Cischke, David Johnson, and Adam Bates. We also have district TIS teachers Susan Jenkins and Christy Graham joining us today.

2:43 **Education Technology in Bullitt County schools:**

Jim stated that the district has had some significant progress over the past five years. They **have installed over 55 miles of dark fiber** to all the schools in the district - they have 12 strands to each school. **They are moving their telephones to Voice over IP (VoIP).**

They **use V-Brick to help distribute video as efficiently and cost effectively as well**. They **have a data center to backup critical district data and emergency power backup to the central office**. Their web page is designed to help put out public alerts in case of an emergency. They are using a subscription service to do this.   Using KETS funds with new and renovation construction projects they have **incorporated 125-130 projectors and related technologies to their schools**. **They use their TIS's to work with teachers** to help individually better use technologies in the classroom. The current superintendant was the district's former finance officer and helped to make sure that these technologies were put in place. **Supt understands the use of technology to help better fulfill their mission of teaching students**. **The district was also to use the network to install and use an IP based surveillance system for the district's schools.** They manage this system centrally. They have also **installed a 4 terabyte storage server to help keep the data they need** to keep.

Bullitt is a growth district – their current ADA is around 11,000 and they have over 12,500 students. The district knows that IT is critical to be able to what they do and the most critical part of any IT plan is the people in place in the district to plan, install, use it most effectively and then keep it running smoothly. People are the most important IT investment.

10:00 David also wanted to thank the legislators for helping to make sure that the state budget keeps education funding in the forefront with monies for IDU, KEN, Dataseam, and KETS itself. There is some uncertainty on how the budget with develop over the next few months – not just the remainder of FY09, but FY10 as well.

Electronic Textbooks in K-12. Delaying **Textbook** adoption is one of the areas that have been identified for possible reduction in FY09 in order to have balance the budget. **This brings up the question in regards to the role of electronic/online resources when compared to printed books?   There will be an increasing trend to access electronic textbooks at school, on the bus as well as at home.   The biggest challenge with traditional paper textbook companies is to significantly lower their prices so they better reflect the true cost of producing/delivering that same instructional content through an electronic medium that is far less expensive when compared to printing presses.** Too many traditional publishers are

accustomed to the profit margins of the paper form of their textbook. **Something that may help shake up that comfort zone** is there are now organizations made up of educational professionals that have content expertise that are putting together electronic textbooks that are available at no cost. This falls under the something called "open source" in the technology industry.   This open source text book approach is being pursued more at the higher education level right now, but it has great possibilities for K-12 in the future as well. Right now there is not a significant price difference between paper and electronic textbooks….but there should be.   KDE and other states need to find a way to put pressure on these traditional textbook companies for lower costs for the electronic textbook. And oh by the way, if the paper textbook was of poor quality no one should assume their electronic version is any better just because it is in electronic form…. so their still needs to be a quality assurance process for electronic textbooks.   This "open source" concept has great potential cost saving for K-20 on many different levels beyond electronic textbooks. There are certain Ky districts using "open source" software tools right now in large scale for instructional purposes.   **The electronic text book is a natural next step for K-12 but will have some initial adoption challenges.** While the electronic version of the open source textbook is free, the printed version of the open source textbook is at a fraction of the cost of traditional textbook companies.

The **Kentucky Student Information System (KSIS)** has not been funded past the implementation phase – the minimum needed for continuing this program is $5.5 million.

The **Kentucky Instructional Data System (KIDS)** has not been funding beyond the implementation stage – the minimum needed is $1.2 million a year.

The **1st offer of assistance** to districts has gone out. Approximately 133 districts have received the funding. The **2nd offer is now on hold** until KDE has a better understanding on what funds will and will not be available. The department has submitted how various reductions in funding will affect KDE and the districts. There is some hope the federal government will offer some education funding in the upcoming economic stimulus package.

20:00 In early January, the board named **Elaine Farris as interim Commissioner**. The KBE is in the process of setting up the search process for a permanent replacement. They hope to have a new Commissioner in place before the next school year starts.

20:34 Doris Settles joined the discussion to speak about internet security issues as part of an initiative being offered by **Kentucky Child Now**: http://www.kychildnow.org/ . They - along with **KDE** and the **State Attorney General's office** sponsored the I-JAM meeting in Lexington back in November. They will be following up with this conference with offering regional and school level training to teachers to offer awareness, education, and available resources to better teach digital citizenship to students.

23:00 David's daughter Amanda is a student at **Northern Kentucky University** and was the producer of **a brief public service video on cyberbullying/stalking** for one of her classes. It is done at a student's level to discuss what is cyberbullying/stalking and how it can affect students. As a father – this video got his attention and should any parent today. The comment was made that students today have tools and ways of communicating that their parents did not have but students need adult guidance on how to develop/maintain proper people skills while immersed in technology tools. Parents need to make sure they are aware the new technologies and how their children are using them productively or in destructive ways.

The following 15 minute video on cyberbullying and cyberstalking is worth a look for any student, teacher, administrator and parent!!   Go to:
mms://video1.kde.state.ky.us/On-Demand2009/CyberStalking_2009.wmv

43:10   Mark Neblett - president for "Make a Difference for Kids"
http://www.makeadifferenceforkids.org/Mark.html joined the discussion to talk about what happened to his daughter, Rachel Neblett. Rachel took her own life after being cyber bullied on-line. **One of the major lessons taken from what happened to his daughter is that friends do not keep such deadly secrets – they should tell other adults so they can try to help.**

In Rachel's case - the authorities knew what computer and home the messages and threats came from - but did not have enough evidence according to current law to bring charges. Three lives ended in Bullitt County because of the cyber-stalking and bullying and others were forever changed. We should help to send the message it should not happen again.

The group discussed some tips for parents, these include:

- Google Search for your child's names, schools, and addresses on MySpace and Face Book
- Make sure children accounts have the privacy settings turned on,
- Have kids make you one of their online friends so you can see what is going on,
- The definition of a stranger and friend needs to be reinforced for the online world. Too many children are quickly making people their on line friends and giving them complete access to lots of their personal information/thought and pictures.   These are people that do not at all know or barely know.
- Do not underestimate the cruelty and lack of proper judgment that will be inflicted on others by those who believe they are anonymous.
- Do not underestimate your child feeling humiliated and ruined through the variety of gossip sites or other electronic techniques that can post/send to a large audience in seconds (JuicyCampus, MySpace, Topix, Blogs, texting, etc)
- Do not underestimate your child's blind spots when creating electronic content and sharing electronic created content.

- Unlike a traditional bully where you can try to avoid certain physical locations during certain parts of the day, a cyberbully/stalker has the ability to bully/stalk 24 hours a day and can do so by hiding their true identity and intentions.

54:00 Highlights of the 2009 District Technology Readiness Survey

The Kentucky Technology Readiness Survey provides a snapshot and quick overview of certain measurable aspects of education technology throughout the 174 Kentucky school districts. This information is used for a variety of reporting and planning purposes. The Information below is not all inclusive of all data that was collected from districts. You can download the complete Technology Readiness Survey data and reports at:

http://applications.kde.state.ky.us/oet/trs%5Freports/

Significant trends or new information found within the 2009 data include:

- **The growth of mobile education technology devices in schools.** 17% of all workstations in Kentucky's public schools are now either laptops or tablets. This represents a significant increase in quantity over last year. Also there are also close to 10,000 district owned handheld, smartphones, or mini-laptop devices as well.   This tends to reflect the growing recognition of ease of access as a key component of always on, anywhere and anytime learning.

- **Coming in the door from home.** Personally owned mobile education technology devices and smart/cell phones are increasingly being permitted to be brought into and used in Ky schools by administrators, teachers, and students. For example 92 districts now allow teachers to bring personal types of devices to their school. 61 of the districts allow students. Once again this supports the trend for ease of access throughout the day. However, the line between personal and school life is becoming more blurred.

- **Students access to technology tools and educational content from home.** This is the first year this data has been collected. 69% of students surveyed by local districts have access to a computer at home and 62% have Internet access. Another 6% of students on top of that are primarily in are permitted to take their school issued laptop home with them.   Of those who have Internet access at home, only 18% use dial-up. We will need to continue with services like No Child Left Offline to help address every child with access from home. The 9 elements of Digital Citizenship also become important to emphasize given the impact the things happening at home can have on the school.

- **Addressing unmet need.** 83% and 81% of the teachers and administrators have modern computers and a one to one ratio.   72% of elementary school students and 76% of the secondary students have a modern computer with an overall 3 to 1 ratio. Therefore there is still much unmet need that needs to be addressed.   The IDU funds helped bring these numbers up from crisis.

However districts will need to continue to replace a certain amount of the workstations each year to help avoid the situation our schools ran into previously that resulted in a very high percentage of old tools and content.

- **Teacher's Intelligent Classroom Tools.** The significant advantage of leveraging the intelligent classroom technologies to further the educational experiences of students continues to be an emphasis of local school districts. 72% of Ky classrooms now have components of the Intelligent Classroom. These are particularly effective for the visual and auditory learners as well as for teachers/students who can get immediate feedback through the diagnostic/formative testing tools.

- **Student, Teachers and Administrator Technology Skills:** Local districts report that 81% of classroom teachers have been rated by their building principal as technology proficient in Standard 6 of their evaluations. 120 districts have implemented technology skills for students as defined by the Program of Studies. 116 districts evaluate the technology skills of school leadership.

- **Technology Infrastructure Trends (faster, voice over the Internet, more wireless):** Since 2006 the number of local schools connected by fiber to the Internet has increased from 67% to 85%. 65% of the schools implementing new phones systems indicate they will use the Internet for their phone service versus traditional phone systems. 15% of all workstation in Ky schools use Office 2007. 3% use the Vista operating (92% still use XP). 6% use the Apple operating system (nearly all use OS10 or above). 14% of workstations within schools connect via wireless within the buildings.

1:04:25 Other information of interest:

- **Online Summative CATS Testing has been put on hold** indefinitely to financial constraints

- **Nortel has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, which is very different than Chapter 7, therefore they expect to be a viable provider of products and services for the long term. The following article does a good job of briefly describing where they are at now and where they are going in the future: http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/020409-nortel.html?hpg1=bn**

- **The Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference (KTLC) has been cancelled** for 2009.

- **The Federal Title IID (aka EETT) Audit results and recommendations include**:
1. Create qualifiers for Average Yearly Progress for the participants
2. Insure through internal auditing that adequate monitoring of expenditures is being made.

3. Insure that the 12 criteria requirements are met as part of the district's planning – OET will send additional information to the districts to complete and return.

- **McAfee renewals** – KDE has purchased their portion of the needed licenses to meet the 6 to 1 ratio for districts. We will be sending a True-up worksheet and contract information to the districts so they can purchase their needed licenses.

- **WSUS 3.0 update** – KDE is planning on scheduling time to work on the upgrade (KEN rack work) with districts. They hope to start at the beginning of February and finish early March.

- **Software updates/upgrades** – OET has authorized the upgrades to IE7, Vista SP! And others. We have been working with districts – giving them the ability to set the time and scope of these upgrades within the districts. Documentation on how to do this has been sent to districts. If there are any problems contact the KETS Service Desk to get help.

- **The KDE search engine** has been upgraded to the latest Google search engine.

Question: How can we access the I-Jam applications for training?

Answer: Contact Doris Settles at Kentucky Child Now!, (502) 227-7722, her e-mail is: dorissettles@kychildnow.org and she will assist you.

Question: What is the McAfee code to purchase the updated licenses, how much will be paying, what is the contract number?

Answer from Phil: I will send that information out to the districts in the next day or so.

Our next webcast is on TUESDAY February 17th from Madison County Public Schools. Monday is a holiday for school districts (President's Day). See you then. Take care.